

Like most Americans, I do not tend to think of a society that has been good to me and to my parents as "evil." But when he said that "somebody has power," it was difficult to disagree. It is possible that icy equanimity and self-pacifying form of moral abdication by the powerful will take more lives in the long run than any single drug-addicted and disordered parent. Elisa Izquierdo's mother killed only one child. The seemingly anesthetized behavior of the U.S. Congress may kill thousands. Now we are told we must "get tougher" with the poor. How much tougher can we get with children who already have so little? How cold is America prepared to be?●

LIFE OF BARBARA JORDAN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as the Nation mourns the loss of Barbara Jordan, I would like to take a few moments to celebrate her life.

Barbara Jordan became active in politics around the same time as I did. John Kennedy was running for President and the winds of change were sweeping across a nation and inspiring a young generation of new leaders.

It was different world for women then, one where the doors weren't nearly so open as they are today. And make no mistake about it—the doors are open wider today for women and for minorities because of the path cleared by Barbara Jordan.

Her start in politics was quite humble. She was a self-described "stamper and addresser"—meaning literally that she volunteered on President Kennedy's campaign licking stamps, addressing envelopes, and putting them in the mail. So many women started this way—behind the scenes doing the mundane but essential labor of grassroots politics.

But Barbara Jordan was not underestimated for long. Her most enduring talents—the power of her voice and the strength of her words—were quickly discovered and no one tells that story better than she did herself:

I had a law degree but no practice, so I went down to Harris County Democratic Headquarters [in Texas] and asked them what I could do. They put me to work licking stamps and addressing envelopes. One night we went out to a church to enlist voters and the woman who was supposed to speak didn't show up. I volunteered to speak in her place and right after that they took me off licking and addressing.

They would have been foolish not to.

If Barbara Jordan is remembered for just one thing, it will be the power of her words. Her message united people from vastly different walks of life, bringing them together to stand as one and nod their heads in unison and say, "Yes, each one of us can make a difference, and together we can make this nation stronger."

Where her words traveled, legions followed. And our Nation did change for the better as we began to offer opportunity to all our citizens.

Barbara Jordan broke all kinds of barriers throughout her life. If she were an athlete, she would have been a world-class hurdler because she spent

her whole life leaping over barriers with grace and dexterity. She broke records.

In Texas in 1966 she became the first Africa-American State senator. She entered that body with outright denunciations from some of her male colleagues, but when she left for Washington, DC, those same men endorsed a resolution commending her.

In 1972, Barbara Jordan and Andrew Young, of Georgia, became the first black southerners in Congress since Reconstruction.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, she quickly rose to prominence as a member of the House Judiciary Committee during Watergate. During the crisis, Barbara Jordan became one of our Constitution's greatest champions.

"My faith in the Constitution is whole," she told her colleagues and the American people. "It is complete. It is total. I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

Whether it be freedom of speech, freedom of choice or equal opportunity, we in this Congress are also facing fundamental questions about the integrity of our Constitution. It is my hope that our faith in that sacred document is as whole and as complete as Barbara Jordan's.

After she left Congress, Barbara Jordan continued to give this Nation a lifetime of service—teaching young people in preparation for careers in public service. Her chairmanship of the independent U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, which is referred to as the Jordan Commission, took on the very difficult issue of fair immigration policy.

And just as young Barbara Jordan listened to the words of JFK and was "bit by the bug" of politics, so did she go on to inspire another generation of young leaders when she took the podium at the 1992 Democratic Convention. Speaking with an authority and voice that could only be Barbara Jordan's, she issued a new challenge to each and every one of us to reexamine our relationships with each other and what we stand together for as a nation. Above all else, she encouraged us to put our principles into action where help was needed most—in the hearts of our great cities.

She said, "We need to change the decaying inner cities to places where hope lives. Can we all get along? I say we answer that question with a resounding 'yes'."

Throughout her life Barbara Jordan was a voice for common ground, for the ties that bind. Hers were powerful, healing, uplifting words that challenged and inspired women and minorities, indeed all Americans, to reach for something higher and to believe in themselves and their own ability to change the world and make it a better place.

Her life was a testament to that idea.

A nation mourns a great loss, but it is my hope that the spirit of Barbara

Jordan will live on forever in the many Americans who have been touched deeply by her powerful words and exemplary life. I certainly have been.●

ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VERSUS WADE

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today marks the 23d anniversary of the monumental Supreme Court decision, *Roe versus Wade*, which legalized abortion nationwide and affirmed the right of all American women to choose safe, legal abortion services. I join Americans across the country in commemorating this important day in our history.

Yet this is a bittersweet celebration. We are still fighting to safeguard our rights, and battles are being waged on many fronts. Each year, antichoice forces in Congress use the appropriations process to erode women's abortion rights every chance they get. In 1995, they were successful in denying Federal workers abortion coverage in their health benefit packages. They will try again this year for more victories.

On this special anniversary, we must remember those who have suffered and lost their lives because of their commitment to protecting the health of women in our country. Increasingly, the radical minority in the anti-abortion crusade has turned to violence to pursue their agenda, with blatant disregard for who is caught in their crossfire. Over the last several years, I, like so many Americans, have been greatly disturbed by images of clinics under siege by vandals and arsonists, and horrified by reports of doctors murdered because they perform abortions—a legal procedure. We cannot let our reproductive rights be taken away because of a threat of violence, nor can we allow the actions of radical fanatics to dictate our Nation's public policy decisions. Just as our clinics are under attack, so too are our personal freedoms.

Emboldened by their momentum, Mr. President, antiabortion forces in both Houses of Congress passed H.R. 1833, the so-called Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1995. By their own admission, this is the first step in the antichoice movement's strategy to deny women their right to choose—one procedure at a time. This legislation is an affront to the women of this country, and an unprecedented intrusion into the autonomy of medical professionals to determine the best methods of care for their patients. I am reminded today of the frustration I felt during debate of this bill, of the misinformation and divisive rhetoric infused in the conversation.

The antichoice majorities in Congress may have forgotten that most Americans feel abortion should be legal. They may also have forgotten about the days of back-alley abortions and women dying of infection from unsanitary procedures. Well, I haven't